Food riots against PDS agents in West Bengal

*128. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of food riots against PDS agents that took place in certain districts of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of causes;

(c) whether Government has taken up the issue with the State Government; and

(d) what steps are being taken to discount such incidents by improving efficacy of PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per reports received from the State Government of West Bengal, there have not been any food riots in the State. However, agitation against Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers has taken place in Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura and Murshidabad districts in the State. The main reason mentioned by the State Government for the agitation against the FPS dealers is improper distribution of wheat to the APL Cardholders by the FPS dealers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken up the issue with the State Government. Various reports/complaints received about irregularities in functioning of TPDS in the State have been sent to State Government for inquiry, appropriate action and report to the Government of India on the action taken. The State Government has assured to take necessary action against all those responsible for irregularities in functioning of TPDS and to streamline functioning of the TPDS in the State.

Increasing the Allocation to States for BPL Households

*129. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased the allocation of food grain to States for Below Poverty Line (BPL) households;

(b) if so, the details of such allocation made to each State during the last three years, especially for Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the expenditure incurred on food subsidy during the last three years, State-wise and especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps being taken to give food subsidy in future, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for BPL families, including AAY are made @ 35 kgs. per family per month on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 projected on the population estimate of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of the ration cards issued by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. This scale of issue has been the same since April, 2002.

State-wise details of the Below Poverty Line (including AAY) families are enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below) and details of the allocation made for these beneficiaries, including Andhra Pradesh for the last three years are enclosed as Statements-II and III (*See* below).